

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CIEP-02 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 030840Z JUL 74

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LDP CRITICIZED FOR ENLISTING BUSINESS FIRMS IN UPPER
HOUSE CAMPAIGN

1. UNPRECEDENTED ELECTION EVE BROUHAHA WAS TOUCHED OFF BY MASAMICHI
HORIGOME, CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, WHO TOLD
PRESS JULY 2 THAT NATIONWIDE SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC LDP CANDIDATES BY
CORPORATIONS MIGHT CONSTITUTE VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF VOTE GUARAN-
TEED BY PUBLIC ELECTION LAW, SHOULD IT INVOLVE COERCION OF
EMPLOYEES OR SUBCONTRACTORS. HORIGOME, WHO IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF JSP
POLICY STUDY COMMITTEE, EXPRESSED ABOVE AS PERSONAL VIEW WITHOUT CON-
SULTING OTHER FOUR MEMBERS OF COMMISSION. HORIGOME ALSO STATED THAT
HE
WOULD CONVENE COMMISSION MEETING JULY 13 TO SEEK EX-POST FACTO
APPROVAL
OF HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, AND TO REVIEW ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO DETERMINE
WHETHER TO RECOMMEND REVISION OF PUBLIC ELECTION LAW.

2. CORPORATION SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC LDP CANDIDATES HAS BECOME
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SUBJECT OF INCREASINGLY BITTER CRITICISM BY ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES

IN CLOSING STAGES OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN. EVEN SOME LDP MEMBERS REPORTEDLY HAVE QUESTIONED WISDOM OF OVER-IDENTIFICATION OF PARTY WITH BUSINESS INTERESTS.

3. HORIGOME STATEMENT PROVOKED IMMEDIATE SHARP REACTION BY LDP LEADERS. PRIMIN TANAKA, CAMPAIGNING IN NAGANO, ANGRILY STATED THAT NO COMMENT WAS NECESSARY, CONSIDERING SIMILAR NATIONWIDE SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATES BY LABOR UNIONS. LDP SECGEN HASHIMOTO CHARGED THAT HORIGOME STATEMENT WAS TANTAMOUNT TO OBSTRUCTION OF FREE ELECTION, AND SAID THAT PARTY WOULD BE PREPARED TO BRING LEGAL CHARGES AGAINST HIM, IF NECESSARY.

4. AS CONSEQUENCE OF HORIGOME STATEMENT, ISSUE MUST BE WRANGLLED OUT, IN LARGE PART, IN CENTRAL ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, IN WHICH LDP AT 2-3 DISADVANTAGE. COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE NOMINATED BY PARTIES AND APPROVED BY DIET VOTE, AND APPOINTED BY PRIMIN. HOWEVER, NO PARTY MAY HAVE MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS ON COMMISSION, WHICH NOW CONSISTS OF 2 LDP, 1 JCP AND 2 JSP MEMBERS. THEY SELECT OWN CHAIRMAN.

5. COMMENT: HORIGOME STATEMENT AND SHARP LDP REACTION FORESHADOW AGRIMONIOUS POST-ELECTION CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ON PROPRIETY, IF NOT LEGALITY, OF UNPRECEDENTED DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF CORPORATIONS IN CAMPAIGN. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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